

324-337

Constantine I was Byzantine Emperor

3 July
324

Constantine gathered a great army and fleet & moved against Licinius.

The 2 armies converged on Hadrianopolis, where on 3 July 324 Constantine won a decisive victory.

Licinius fled across the Bosphorus & appointed the Commander of his bodyguard MARTIUS MARTINIANUS as Augustus.

324

With death of Licinius, Constantine became sole ruler in 324. During the next decade Constantine organized not only the defense vs. SARMATIANS and Goths from Pannonia to the mouth of the Danube. But he also resumed the offensive.

324-330 AD

Foundation of Constantinople on
site of Byzantium.

Licinius quin challenged
Constantine.

Licinius lost his throne.
Then he lost his life.

Constantine was sole emperor
of the empire.

In a reign of peace, he set
about rebuilding the strength
of old Rome. Constantine continued
to tolerate paganism and even to

encourage the imperial cult.

Constantine also endeavored to strengthen Christianity

324

Construction began on the
Roman Basilica of St. John
Lateran

Constantine donated the imperial palace
of the LATERAN to the BISHOP of ROME.
as his official residence.

He built Cathedral of Saint John
Lateran on an adjacent plot

324-337 AD

Reign of Constantine as
undisputed emperor

Constantine publicly announced his own adherence to the faith.

But Constantin continued to have his court at NICOMEDIA on the opposite side of the Bosphorus and it was another 50 yrs before Constantinople became the permanent imperial residence.

Until it fell in 1453 Constantinople was the principal Christian City of

the world.

324-337AD

CONSTANTINE THE GREAT

Reorganized the empire : Four Prefectures (rulers had only civil authority), which were divided into 13 dioceses, and these divided again into 120 provinces. The army & other officials were directly under his authority, but civil and military power were made separate. The Empire was divided among his 3 sons. Constantinople became the capital. Christians were protected by Constantine and Christianity

was made the state religion by the Edict
of Milan 313 A.D.

324

In a final Campaign Constantine
defeated and captured Licinius
And reunited the whole empire
under the rule of one man.

July 324

Constantine defeated Licinius at
HADRIANOPOLIS

18 Sept 324

Constantine ferried his own army
across the Bosphorus and defeated
Licinius again at CHRYSOPOLIS

A few days later Licinius and
Martinianus surrendered to Constantine
at NICOMEDIA on the understanding their
lives would be spared. Constantine sent
LICINIUS to Thessalonica to live as a
private citizen

Sept 324

Licinius was defeated at
CHRYSOPOLES, Constantine was
sole ruler of the whole Roman
Empire

324

Licinius is defeated.

Constantine became sole emperor

8 Nov 324

Constantine, after his final victory over LICINIUS formed an entirely new capital on the site of the existing city of Byzantium. This involved an enormous building program, but within 6 years the city was ready for dedication as Constantinople. But he did not neglect Rome. He completed the BASILICA NOVA begun by Maxentius, and was responsible for the last of the great

imperial bath buildings — the Baths of
Constantine.

His mother Helena was buried in
a special mausoleum at TOR PIGNATTARA
on the via PRÆNESTINA (the sarcophagus
can be seen in the Vatican Museum) and his
daughter Constantina was buried in what is
now the Church of SANTA COSTANZA
HE DISBANDED THE PRÆTORIAN GUARD

19 Dec 324

Valentinian was forced to abdicate

Licinius was defeated at
ADRIANOPLE and at CHALCEDON,
He surrendered in NICOMEDIA
He was executed by order of
Constantine.

Constantine had LICINIUS executed
on charge that he had resumed
his intrigues

324-337

PLATE 1

Constantine sole emperor

Constantine eliminated his co-emperor. He seized the treasures and estates of most pagan temples. He gave vast sums to the Christians, especially for building.

Impressive churches were built at Rome, many cities of Italy, Nicomedia, Antioch, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and Hebron.

He made Sunday a holiday.

324

Second ~~Lesson~~ Lycinian War.

324 AD

CONSTANTINUS I (the Great)
was emperor

324

Constantine I (the Great) first
Christian emperor

324AD

Constantine became sole emperor
He carried on Diocletian's work of reconstructing
and stabilizing the Empire. To stabilize the
manpower situation, necessary for the production
of essential goods and services as well as the
collection of taxes, Constantine issued a series
of decrees which froze people to their occupation
and places of origin.

324 AD

Empire reunited

Constantine became sole emperor. He had decided to make Christianity the state religion and the quarrel about Arianism which threatened to split the religion into two hostile camps was very unwelcome.

When Bishop Alexander excommunicated Arius and the latter appealed to Bishop

Eusebius of Nicomedia, who sympathized
with him, the emperor thought it time
to intervene

324 A.D.

ASHKELON

Constantine officially
recognized Christianity.

Monasteries flourished near
Ashkelon and throughout
the region.

Amphorae from the Byzantine
era were found as far away
as London.

Constantine actively advocated Catholicism. His support of the Church facilitated mass conversions of pagans.

The result was the incorporation of many pagan customs into Catholic liturgy.

These customs included: devotion to relics, use of the kiss as a sign of

reverence for holy objects; the practice
of kneeling; the use of candles and
incense, and the increased use
of ceremonies patterned on
those used in the imperial
court,

AD 324 → 1453

Constantinople had 88 emperors.

29 were butchered, including
Basiliscus, stoned to death in 477

Phocas dismembered in 610

Constantine II bludgeoned to death in 668

Romanus III drowned in 1034

Alexius II strangled in 1183

Andronicus I, tortured to death in 1185

324

Constantine gave the bishop of
Rome his Lateran palace
as residence, which it
remained until 1308

Constantine recognized the Catholic clergy as a distinct social class exempt from military service and forced labor. He increased the authority of the bishops by giving civil authority to their judicial decisions. He also enabled the church to accumulate wealth by legalizing bequests to it.

Earlier the Catholic clergy had not been sharply differentiated from the laity in their lifestyle. They had married, raised children, and supported themselves

c 324

Constantine erected a basilica
over the tomb of Peter in Rome.

also a basilica over tomb of
Christ in Jerusalem.

324

Edict of Toleration throughout
the Empire.

325 AD.

NICAEA I

#1
Ecumenical Council

Emper Constantine I - Pope St. Sylvester I
Attended by approx. 300 bishops; sessions
held between May 20 or June 19 to near
end of Aug.

Condemned ARIANISM, which denied
the divinity of Christ.

Contributed to formulation of the
Nicene Creed.

Fixed the date of Easter.

Passed regulations concerning clerical discipline.

Adopted the Civil division of the Empire as the model for the organization of the Church.